

A NEW SPECIES OF *PHLEBOTOMUS* FROM TRINIDAD

BY

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Phlebotomus trinidadensis, sp. n.

A relatively small species. ♂ genital armature with five large spines to the superior claspers: three terminal or distal, and two slightly beyond the middle distance, arranged with their bases on opposite sides of the segment; no tufts of non-deciduous hairs, proximally.

Colour of both sexes similar. Pale ochraceous. Wings with the costa sometimes distinctly infuscated, and in certain lights with intense iridescent blue. Legs silvery grey.

Male. Abdominal hairs of the medio-dorsal line arranged in small, sparse groups on all of the segments; those of the venter dense, some of them semi-erect, others procumbent. Hairs of the proximal segments of the superior claspers very long and dense. *Palpi* of five segments: second, third, and fourth equal in length; the third and fourth broadened distally; fifth, two and a half times longer than the fourth. *Antennae* with the third segment projecting slightly beyond the tip of the proboscis; geniculated spines relatively very small, and apparently bilateral, those on the third about one-eighth of the entire length of the segment; those on the sixth and seventh a little less than one-fourth the entire length of the segments respectively. *Wings* (fig. 1 *a*) moderately narrow, the fork of the fourth vein generally in advance of the proximal fork of the second. *Genital armature* (fig. 1 *b*), relatively large; superior claspers each with five long, stout spines: three distal and two slightly beyond the middle distance, the latter arranged with their bases on opposite sides of the segment, the two outer, distal ones and the inner,

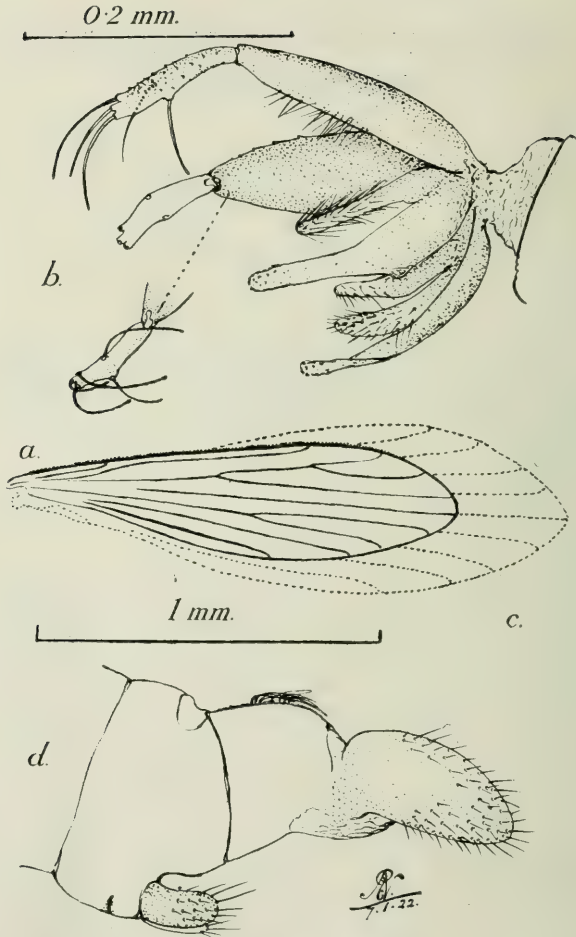


FIG. 1. *Phlebotomus trinidadensis*, sp. n.

♂: a, wing; b, genital armature. ♀: c, wing; d, terminal segments with the paired leaf-like appendages. a, c and d to same magnification.

lateral one longer than the others; the middle, distal one shortest; the segment about half the length of the proximal one. Inferior claspers slightly shorter than the proximal segment of the superior claspers.

Length 2.3 mm.; length from front of thorax to end of armature 1.8 mm.; wing, 1.3 mm.; leg III, 2.6 mm.; internal genital armature, 0.6 mm.

Female. More robust and generally larger than the ♂. *Abdominal hairs* more or less erect. *Palpi* similar in form to those of the ♂. Third segment of *antennae* shorter than the corresponding segment in the ♂, and not reaching the tip of the proboscis. *Wings* (fig. 1 c) much more broadly lanceolate than in the ♂; curvature of the borders similar; venation similar to that of the ♂. *External genitalia* (fig. 1 d): the superior leaf-like appendages relatively exceptionally large and, in macerated specimens, widely separated from the inferior pair; both appendages strongly hairy; the inferior pair with the finer hairs on the distal two thirds arranged in distinct, equidistant rows.

Length, 2.1 to 2.9 mm.; length to front of thorax, 1.7 mm.; wing, 1.6 mm.; leg III, 3.1 mm.

Two American species: *P. vexator*, Coquillet (1907) and *P. brumpti*, Larousse (1920), resemble this species in regard to the number of spines on the superior claspers. In *brumpti*, however, the armature generally resembles that of *P. papatasii*, and is, therefore, markedly distinct. *P. vexator* also differs in having the spines arranged as follows: two apical, two sub-apical, and one in the middle of the segment. In *P. trinidadensis*, sp. n., the formula is three apical and two near the middle of the segment.

TRINIDAD. Six ♂♂, seven ♀♀ (four of which contained blood), 1921. Major W. F. M. Loughnan, R.A.M.C., D.A., D.P., West Indian Command, with the assistance of Captain D. A. MacDougall, M.C., R.A.M.C.

In his letter from Kingston, Jamaica, dated 22nd August, 1921, Major Loughnan states that he, together with his fellow-officer, had a good deal of trouble in finding the specimens, and further that the species appeared to be very sparse in its distribution in the Island of Trinidad.

This is the first authentic record of the occurrence of a species

of *Phlebotomus* from the West Indies; and the captors are to be congratulated on their interesting discovery. Possibly other new and undescribed species await the hunters of these small midges in that region.

REFERENCES

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